

# South Carolina is Just Right for Plastics Recycling

One good reason to recycle plastic is that there is just so much of it. An estimated 300 million pounds of plastic bottles are landfilled annually in the Carolinas; these are potential feedstocks that could be turned into new recycled content products.



Manufacturing using recycled plastic materials creates about 10 jobs per 1,000 tons. By recycling, you can also help conserve the additional 80% of energy that's typically used when making new plastic bottles, containers and other items. And, for every 1 ton of plastic that is recycled, an estimated 7 yards of landfill space are saved.

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## Turning Plastics into Dollars

Plastic bottles. They are everywhere. They are on your desk at work, at home in your bathroom and kitchen, at the park, at the gym, in your car. Empty, they seem like they have no further use. Think again.

- The Carolinas (North and South Carolina) have a robust plastic recycling industry that provides readily available markets for the region. The industry employs more than 1,300 people, processes more than 750 million pounds of plastic per year and had sales of nearly \$450 million.
- By simply recycling plastic bottles that used to contain water, soda, shampoo, milk, laundry detergents, food and other items, we can increase the available plastic resources to supply these manufacturers.
- An increase in recycled plastic material supports bottle-to-bottle recycling, automotive, textile, home furnishings, carpet, consumer products and other SC industries.

South Carolina has 120 companies in the plastics recycling industry. One example is Wellman Plastics Recycling which takes the entire plastic bottle and converts it into a resin for end-use applications such as new bottles, food containers and fiber.

### Green Facts

- South Carolina recycles more than 16,000 tons of plastic annually.
- By recycling less than 25% of the plastic containers that were generated, South Carolina misses out on \$12 million in potential revenue.
- Plastics recycling contributes to the \$13 billion economic impact in SC.

### The Carolinas Plastics Recycling Council (CPRC)

The (CPRC) is a public/private initiative to increase plastic container recovery and recycling in North and South Carolina. CPRC's key state agency stakeholders are:



- South Carolina Department of Commerce
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources

### Your Bottle Means Jobs



Jobs are created when old plastic bottles are manufactured into new products such as bottles, textiles and consumer packaging. CPRC estimates more than 100 million pounds of plastic bottles are discarded annually in South Carolina. If every household in the Carolinas **recycled 2 additional bottles a week**, it would create **300 more jobs** and generate **\$10 million** in revenues to local governments.

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